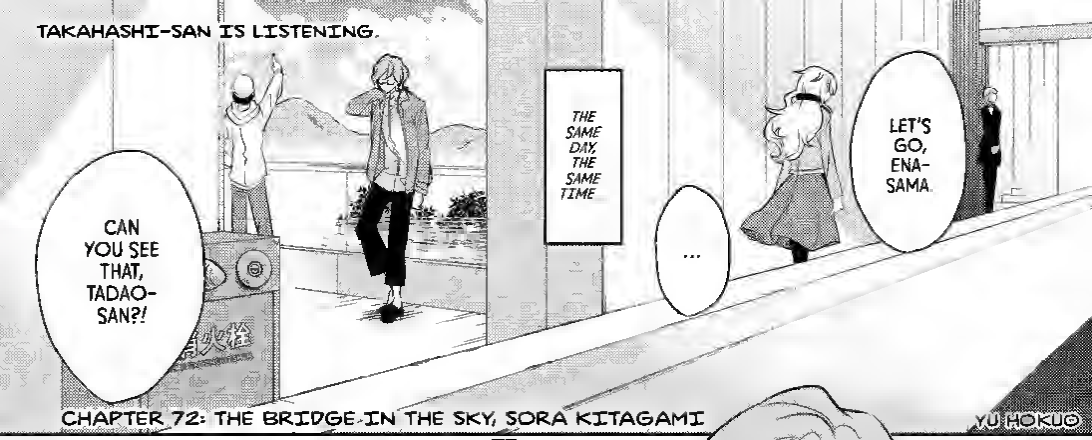
Takahashi-san
is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。



CHAPTER 72: THE BRIDGE IN THE SKY, SORA KITAGAMI

YU HOKUO

IT'S SORA, NOT TADAO.
SORRY
IT'S JUST THAT USING YOUR STAGE NAME IN A PLACE LIKE THIS MAKES THINGS KIND OF CONFUSING
BUT ISN'T THIS ALL SO AMAZING?
I CAN'T BELIEVE AN IDOL IS GOING INTO SPACE IN THAT ROCKET.

..
WHAT?
...WAS ME.
THE ONE WHO WAS SUPPOSED TO BE RIDING THAT ROCKET...
MY STAGE NAME, SORA KITAGAMI...
SO THAT MEANS YOU WERE...
A DOZEN OR SO YEARS AGO?
HMPH
A DOZEN OR SO YEARS AGO, BUT YES
I WAS WONDERING WHO EXACTLY WAS TO BE MY SUCCESSOR
DID YOU GET THE JOB OFFER FIRST?
I-IS THAT SO?
THE NAME IS QUITE LITERAL
"SHINE LIKE A STAR PLAN"
...WAS GIVEN TO ME BY A MAN NAMED AMEKARI. THE SAME AMEKARI WHO'S NOW TRYING TO RECREATE HIS...

WHAM
MY LIFE SINCE THEN HAS BEEN NOTHING BUT TROUBLE!
D-DON'T TELL ME IT RUINED YOUR CAREER?
HOW-EVER
DUE TO CIRCUM-STANCES, THE PLAN WAS LEFT AT A STAND-STILL
THE WHOLE THING WAS SHELVED WITHOUT ANY ANNOUNCE-MENT TO THE MEDIA
YES... I LOST MY WILL TO KEEP GOING AND FELL COMPLETELY INTO DEPRAVITY
AFTER THAT, IT WAS ONE ROMANTIC SCANDAL AFTER ANOTHER!
MY IMAGE AS A PURE, INNOCENT IDOL WAS COMPLETELY SHATTERED!
ISN'T THAT YOUR OWN FAULT? ER, I MEAN
I SEE YOU WERE DEEPLY WOUNDED, SORA-SAN YUP
IF THAT HAD NEVER HAPPENED, I'M SURE BY NOW I'D BE
CLENCH

ON WEEKDAY PRIME-TIME!
ENA TAKAHASHI AND I WERE MEANT TO RULE THAT TIMESLOT TOGETHER!
YOUR HAIR!
RIP
HAS SHE EVER BEEN IN A SHOW LIKE THAT?
I THOUGHT SHE WAS STUDYING ABROAD IN THE UNITED STATES
SHADDUP! I KNOW THAT
OH, GOOD THAT'S A RELIEF
I WAS WORRIED YOU WERE STARTING TO LIVE IN YOUR OWN LITTLE WORLD
INDEED.
ENA TAKAHASHI HAS NEVER APPEARED IN A TELEVISION DRAMA
BUT SHE'S STILL...
...THE STAR OF MY FANTASIES!

ゴゴゴ RUMBLE
I'VE HAD TO KEEP MY IMAGINATION BUSY TO MAKE SURE I WAS PREPARED FOR ANYTHING COME OUR NEXT ENCOUNTER!
IT WASN'T REALLY FANTASIZING-- IT WAS VISUALIZATION TRAINING!
I'VE HAD NO OTHER CHOICE WHILE WAITING FOR HER.
FOR THE SAKE OF MY QUEEN, ENA TAKAHASHI, I WAS PREPARED TO DO ANYTHING...
BUT I HAVEN'T HAD ANY CONTACT WITH HER LATELY.
モワ HAZY
I JUST SORT OF HAPPENED TO DO SOME VISUALIZATION TRAINING!
WHY ARE YOU HUGGING YOURSELF? ARE YOU COLD?
RIGHT, SO OUR PRIME-TIME SHOW
HOW ABOUT A SIMPLE TITLE, LIKE "SCHOOL"?
ENA IS THE STUDENT, AND I AM THE TEACHER WE MEET
OH, SORA-SAN, LOOK DOWN THERE
WHAT IS IT? I WAS JUST GETTING STARTED
THAT GIRL...
POP
ISN'T THAT ENA TAKA-HASHI-CHAN?

ENA TATATASHI!
TA-TA-TA-TA...
IT'S ENA TAKAHASHI, REMEMBER?
ARE YOU OKAY?! CAN YOU SAY ANYTHING MORE THAN "TA"?
SHRED
SHRED
SHRED
YOUR SLEEVES!
TA-TA-TA-TA-TA-TA-TA-TA-TA-TA?!
WAS SHE INVITED AS A GUEST TOO?
I WONDER WHAT SHE'S DOING HERE...
YOU'RE RIGHT IT IS ENA TAKAHASHI
AS A GUEST? NO!
I SEE THAT AMEKARI BASTARD IS UP TO HIS OLD TRICKS IN OTHER WORDS..
SHE'S... ENA TAKAHASHI IS...
...MY SUCCES-SOR!

ENA
SORA-SAN?
WHY ARE YOU CROUCHING LIKE THAT?
ENA TAKAHASHI STOLE MY SEAT?!
THAT'S JUST... THAT'S JUST...!
A BEAUTIFULLY PLANNED REWARD!
I'LL BE TAKING YOUR SEAT NOW.
THE BARE EARTH IS GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOU.
LOOK WHAT WE HAVE HERE! OUR LUKEWARM DRAMA...
...HAS TURNED INTO A LATE-NIGHT THRILLER!
WHAT?!
EEP!
ER...
KER-POP
IF YOU DON'T FEEL WELL, WE CAN RETURN TO THE HOTEL
HAZY
HAZY
OH MY GOD! TO THINK SHE'D GO THAT FAR!
WE'RE TALKING ABOUT MY QUEEN HERE
YOU WILL BE MY CHAIR!
THIS IS NO "SCHOOL"! IT'S "THE HUMAN "HAIR EMY"!
TADAO-- SORA-SAN SORA-SAN
ALTHOUGH IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO JUST LEAVE WITH ENA-CHAN HERE
YOU WANT TO GREET HER IN PERSON, RIGHT? YOU KNOW, AS FELLOW IDOLS

IN PERSOOO
NOOOOOOOO
!?!?!?
YOUR PANTS!
THAT'S A DYNAMIC WAY OF HEM-MING!
RIP
HOW IS YOUR VOICE UPSIDE DOWN?!

I-IN PERSON?! HOW COULD YOU EVEN SUGGEST.
IDIOT! I'M THE IMPERTINENT ONE, NOT YOU!
I-I'M SORRY. IT WAS IMPERTINENT OF ME TO SUGGEST, WASN'T IT?
YOU ARE? HOW?!

DON'T GET ME CAUGHT UP IN YOUR TWISTED HOBBIES!
DOES HE WANT TO SEE A MAN LIKE ME GROVEL BEFORE ENA TAKAHASHI?
IF WE MET RIGHT HERE AND NOW, IT WOULD BE MORE THAN JUST A DRAMA...
IS HE SAYING THAT KNOWING MY RELATIONSHIP WITH ENA TAKAHASHI?
WELL, YOU...
DAMMIT! I WON'T BE THE SUBJECT OF GOSSIP AMONG TEENAGERS!
MY FOOLISHNESS ISN'T FOR OTHERS TO INTERROGATE!
TO SOME TABLOID NEWS SHOW?!
WHAT WOULD YOU DO?! SELL THE FOOTAGE OF IT?!
HAZY
HAZY
HAZY
THIS IS WHAT'S WRONG WITH SOCIETY!
WHY IS HE DOING THAT?
SORA-SAN?
THAT'S JUST. THAT'S JUST...
UGH, WE WERE SUPPOSED TO STAR IN A DRAMA TOGETHER, AND NOW IT'S JUST HEADLINES...

THAT'S ENOUGH TO GET ME EXCITED ALREADY!
NOW HE'S SUDDENLY FLASHING HIS ABS!
RIP!
WHAT'S THE MATTER, SORA-SAN?
UM... I'M NOT SURE YOUR ABS ARE GOOD ENOUGH TO SHOW OFF LIKE THAT...
HEAD-LINES
NOT A DRAMA, BUT THE NEWS...

YOU'RE PRETTY GOOD.
IN WHAT WAY?!
ALL OF THIS IS ON YOU!
COME ON, YOU'RE NOT SOME DEVIANT
WHY'D YOU DO THAT TO YOUR CLOTHES?
HUH? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
HMM... IT SEEMS THAT I'VE SOMEHOW LOST A BUTTON

WHAT'S THE MATTER, ENA-SAN?
HUH? MAYBE IT WAS JUST A BUG.
SHE SEES ME AS JUST A BUG!
I SCREWED UP!
SO WHAT WAS IT YOU WANTED TO TALK WITH ME ABOUT?
RIGHT! THE TRUTH IS
HUH? DID SOMETHING JUST HIT ME?
HAZY
HAZY
YOU SURE ARE DUMB.
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS.
YEAH?
THAT'S HOW I SCREWED UP.
I'M NOT EVEN WORTH CHEESY HEADLINES.
BUT IT'S THE TRUTH!
I JUST HIT MY QUEEN WITH SOMETHING...
A DISGRACE COMPLETELY UNWORTHY OF HER!
I'D ONLY BE SUITABLE TO APPEAR IN A VARIETY SHOW!
MY FAILURE WOULD BE THE BUTT OF EVERY JOKE!
HAZY
I PICKED UP YOUR BUTTONS.
HERE, SORA-SAN.

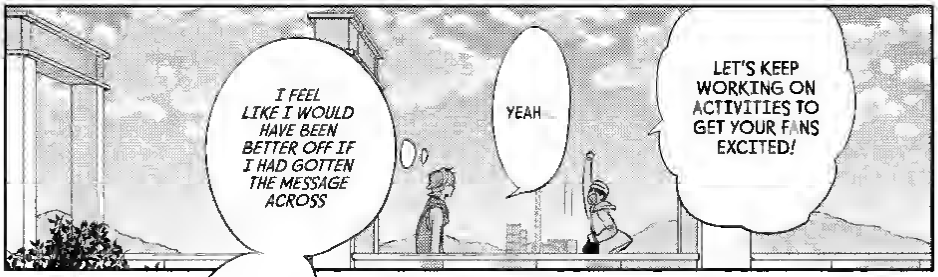
WOAH!
SCARY!
YOU LOOK LIKE THAT WORLD RENOWNED PAINTING, FAMOUS FOR ITS DEPICTION OF DREAD,
SATURN DEVOURING HIS SON!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!
WAIT
IS THAT YOU, SORA-SAN?!
HUH?!
HUH?
WHY DO I LOOK LIKE THIS?

I WAS THINKING YOU SEEMED A LITTLE OUT OF SORTS.
WERE YOU TRYING TO IMITATE THAT PAINTING?
I-IMI-TATE?
I-I WAS JUST FANTASIZING TO MYSELF.
BUT NOW MY CLOTHES ARE ALL TORN UP.
THIS JUST DEMON-STRATES HOW POWERFUL MY QUEEN IS!
I MEAN...
SURELY YOU'RE NOT SOME KIND OF PERVERT THAT GOES AROUND RIPPING HIS OWN CLOTHING OFF, RIGHT?
THIS IS BAD. I GOTTA COME UP WITH SOME KIND OF EXCUSE!
...NO.
I'VE KNOWN THIS MAN FOR A LONG TIME NOW.
INSTEAD OF FUMBLING WITH SOME FOOLISH LIE, I SHOULD...

I HAVE A CONFESSION TO MAKE...
THE TRUTH IS...
ALL OF...
...MY STRANGE AND UNUSUAL BEHAVIOR...
IS FOR...
ENA TAKAHASHI.
FOR ENA-CHAN?
YEAH
IF IT'S FOR HER, I CAN DO ANYTHING!
WHY IS THAT, YOU ASK?
BECAUSE I AM HER...

HEH HEH
IT REALLY DOES TAKE COURAGE TO REVEAL THIS KIND OF SECRET.
THE TRUTH IS...
I AM...
ENA TAKA-HASHI'S
SERVANT!
HER FAN, RIGHT?!
HUH?
UH...
SO THAT'S IT! IF YOU WANT TO BE UNDER THE SAME PRODUCER AS HER, HURRY UP AND SAY SO!
HUH?
ACTUALLY, I THINK ENA-CHAN'S PREVIOUS PRODUCER... CURRENTLY WORKS IN THE COMEDY SECTOR.
IT MAKES SENSE THAT YOU'D BE INTERESTED IN WHAT COULD MAKE ENA-CHAN LAUGH.

I SEE..
JUST AS I THOUGHT, YOU REALLY ARE UPSTANDING, TADAO-SAN!
I COULD NEVER DO THAT!
BUT TO THINK YOU'D USE YOUR ENTIRE BODY TO IMITATE ART FOR THAT PURPOSE!


I FEEL LIKE I WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER OFF IF I HAD GOTTEN THE MESSAGE ACROSS
YEAH...
LET'S KEEP WORKING ON ACTIVITIES TO GET YOUR FANS EXCITED!
I'LL TRY HARDER NEXT TIME

I'M STILL DYING TO TELL HIM HOW I REALLY FEEL.
RIGHT.
IT WOULD BE TROUBLE IF WE RAN INTO A BEE LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
YOU SAW A BUG?

English Digital Edition
Chapter 072

Takahashi-san is listening.
高橋さんが聞いている。
Yu Hokuo

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